



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ARIZONA DPS AND SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE ENTER INTO HISTORICAL MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the San Carlos Apache Nation has entered into a mutual aid agreement for law enforcement services. The agreement itself was previously signed by Governor Napolitano and Tribal Chairwoman Kathy Kitcheyan and went into effect on August 19, 2005.

The agreement calls for DPS to patrol state and federal highways within the boundaries of the San Carlos Apache reservation. It allows for officers from DPS and the San Carlos Police Department to assist one another at incidents and accidents, and provides police powers for officers rendering such assistance.

This is an historic agreement between the State and the Tribe. For over two decades, DPS has not been invited to patrol the San Carlos reservation. The unique status of American Indian tribes, communities and nations as sovereign nations within the United States creates many jurisdictional challenges. Off-reservation law enforcement officers lack jurisdiction over Native Americans on a reservation unless the tribe has authorized enforcement through mutual aid agreements or tribal commissions.

Approximately five years ago, former Tribal Chairman Raymond Stanley, Sr. initiated a request to DPS to return to the San Carlos reservation to provide assistance to the tribal police. The current agreement is the culmination of that request. It went through numerous revisions and reviews over the course of several changes in both Tribal and State administrations. In addition to the agreement, the San Carlos Apache Nation has decided to issue tribal commissions to DPS officers in the surrounding Highway Patrol districts to allow them to enforce tribal laws on Native Americans on the reservation.